

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention is directed to a control
system for a photolithographic integrated circuit
manufacturing process. The control system incorporates a
visual gating device in which a series of nests are
provided. A barcode reader may be provided in
10 conjunction with some of the nests. In operation, a
human operator advances wafer lot boxes through the nest
positions in accordance with a series of displays which
are controlled by the control system. The barcode reader
associated with each nest reads a barcode label on the
15 wafer lot box contained within the nest to determine the
lot number corresponding to the lot box. This lot number
is then used by the control system to obtain setup
parameters for the various photolithographic
20 manufacturing process operations.

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